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Leptocorticium indicum sp. nov. from India

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Abstract — A new corticioid species, *Leptocorticium indicum,* is described on a decaying log of *Rhododendron arboreum* from Uttarakhand state in India.

Key words — *Agaricomycetes*, Tehri Garhwal, Kaddukhal

While conducting fungal forays in Kaddukhal area of district Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India, Samita and Sanyal collected an unknown corticioid fungus on a decaying log of *Rhododendron arboreum.* On the basis of macroscopic and microscopic features and comparison with available literature (Hjortstam & Ryvarden 2002, Nakasone 2005, Bernicchia & Gorjón 2010, Gorjón & Saitta 2014), we found the species different but closely related to the known species of *Leptocorticium*, hence the description of a new species in this genus. The material was also analyzed by Prof. Nils Hallenberg, who supported the concept of a new species within *Leptocorticium.*

Leptocorticium indicum Samita, Sanyal & Dhingra, **sp. nov.** Plates 1, 2

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Differs from *Leptocorticium tenellum* in having larger basidia, smaller broadly ellipsoid to ovate to subglobose basidiospores, and presence of gloeocystidia and from *L. gloeocystidiatum* in having broadly ellipsoid to ovate to subglobose basidiospores.

Type: India, Uttarakhand, Tehri Garhwal, Kaddukhal, on decaying log of *Rhododendron arboreum* Sm. (*Ericaceae*), 20 August 2010, Samita 6092 (PUN, **holotype**).

Etymology: The epithet refers to the country of the type collection.

Basidiocarp resupinate, effused, adnate, ≤80 µm thick in section; hymenial surface smooth, grayish orange; margins thinning, fibrillose, paler concolorous, or indeterminate. Hyphal system monomitic. Generative hyphae ≤4.5 µm wide, septate, clamped, thin- to thick-walled, with or without oily contents;

Plate 1. *Leptocorticium indicum* (holotype). Basidiocarp.

basal hyphae parallel to substrate, less branched; subhymenial hyphae vertical, more densely branched. Dendrohyphidia abundant, irregularly branched, non-dextrinoid, with thin to slightly thickened walls. Gloeocystidia 61–72 × 7.5–9 µm, flexuous, with round to moniliform tips, embedded to projecting ≤40 µm out of hymenium, with basal clamp and oily contents negative to sulphovanillin. Basidia 41–51 × 6.6–7.7 µm, clavate, 4-sterigmate, with basal clamp, with or without oily contents; sterigmata ≤7.5 µm long. Basidiospores 5.5–6.6 × 3.3–4.4 µm, broadly ellipsoid to ovate to subglobose, thin-walled, inamyloid, acyanophilous.

Remarks— This species is placed in *Leptocorticium* based on the presence of a thin and poorly developed subiculum, catahymenium with abundant dendrohyphidia, flexuous gloeocystidia, and clavate basidia. *Leptocorticium tenellum* Nakasone differs from *L. indicum* by its larger, cylindrical to ellipsoid to sub-fusiform basidiospores (7–9.5 × 3–5 µm), absence of gloeocystidia, and smaller, usually utriform basidia (15–26 × 4.5–8 µm; Nakasone 2005). *Leptocorticium gloeocystidiatum* Gorjón & Saitta differs from *L. indicum* by its smaller, ellipsoid basidiospores (4–5 × 2.5–3 µm) and smaller basidia (15–20 × 3–4 µm; Gorjón & Saitta 2014).

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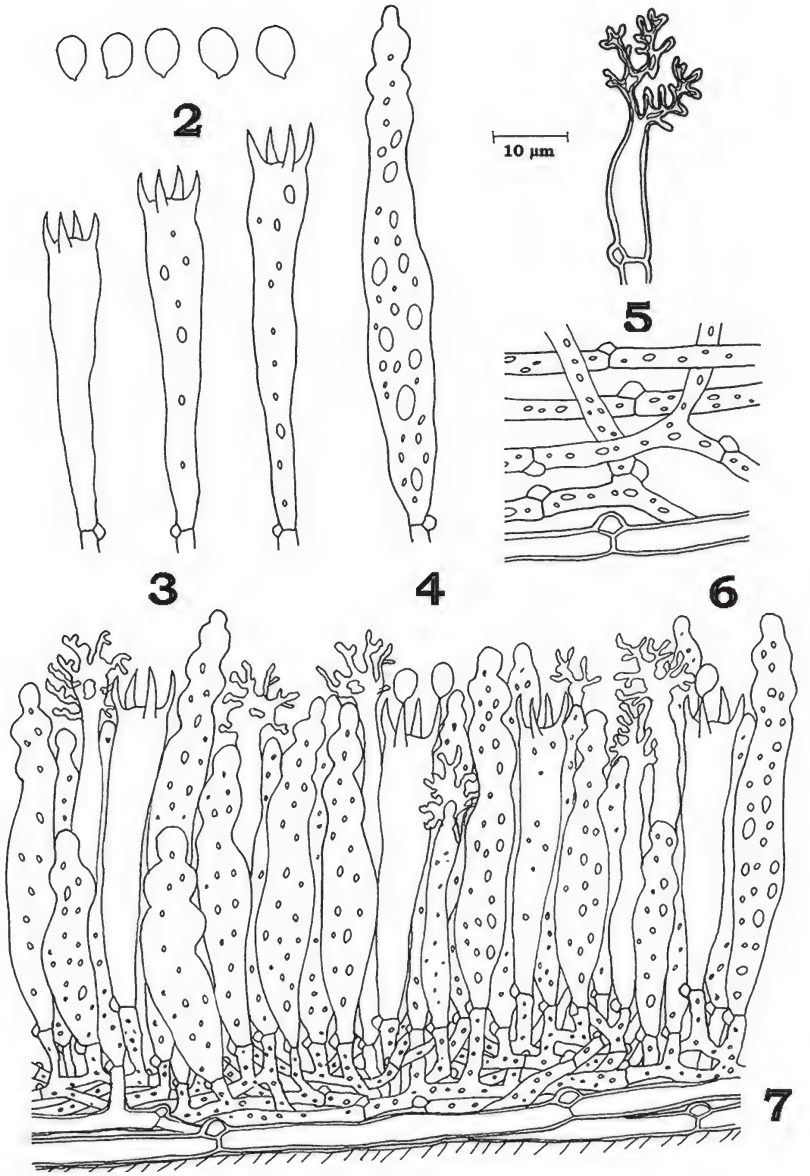

Plate 2. *Leptocorticium indicum* (holotype).
1. Basidiospores. 2. Basidia. 3. Cystidium. 4. Dendrohyphidium.
5. Hyphae. 6. Vertical section through basidiocarp.

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